



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Wheels, Water, and Windmills (Fiets, Canals, and Molens) **Name:** Lenicia Gordon

Other Team Members: Ardell Siegel

Program: Greater Houston Area Program

Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** The Netherlands

Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 02

Project Summary: The Netherlands have served as the landscape for a vast amount of children's literature. We wished to experience the setting, the culture, and the history that produced the stories we share with our students. We had an interest in the literature written about the Dutch involvement in aiding the Jews and Allied forces during WWII.

In Amsterdam, we visited the Anne Frank House, the Dutch Resistance Museum, the Jewish History Museum, and the Van Gogh Museum. Walking the streets of Amsterdam was a highlight as we absorbed the culture, architecture, and the feeling of this unique city built below sea level four hundred years ago. We were intrigued by the bicycle transportation and impressed with the cultures and languages co-existing in harmony. Cycling through the southern region of the country, we admired windmills, swans, and children living in picture postcard settings. We felt a connection to the people we met and were overcome with the kindness and acceptance we experienced.

We have returned to our classrooms with a deeper knowledge of how this country's location, landscape, engineering genius and accepting culture have positioned it so prominently in children's literature. We will encourage our students to see the world through unbiased eyes and welcome every opportunity to experience something new. We will challenge each other to make the learning experiences we share with our students as meaningful to them as our trip has been for us

Career Impact: We were touched and humbled by the open accepting nature of the Dutch people we encountered and inspired by the personal stories they so graciously shared with us

We have ongoing enthusiasm for learning more about Dutch history, culture, architecture, and customs

We discovered the universal popularity of common themes in children's literature

We are achieving a higher degree of collaboration as we incorporate our experiences into our literature and social studies lessons and our community presentations

We gained new technical knowledge as we participated in creating a "blog" of our travel experiences

Classroom/Community Impact: We feel a greater responsibility to embrace families from different cultures

Development of new lessons that include collaboration with our art and music teachers

Increased involvement with local organizations, resources, and community partners

Personal enthusiasm to share our experiences

Primary resources to engage our students

Open Response: Presentation of highlights and lessons learned to faculty and community

Interview and news story "Going Dutch" in local Memorial Examiner

Feature story in American Bicyclist magazine

Addition of Holland to our monthly campus "Reading Passport" celebrations

Ongoing trip blog www.wheelswaterwindmills.blogspot.com

Possible "Family Night in Holland" with cross curricular Dutch themed activities

Quote: "Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!" -Anne Frank

Photos:



Dutch school children on a ferry to a castle



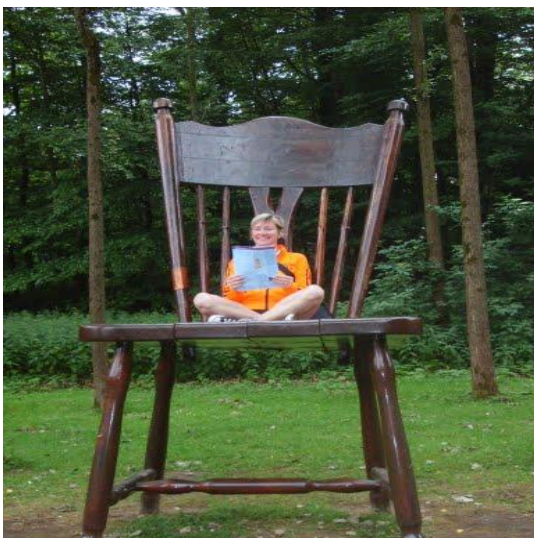
Giving a Texas souvenir to our new friend



Dutch student on field trip at Open Air Museum



Punishment for bad behavior in a historic Dutch classroom



Proof that fairytales are alive and well in Holland



Preparing for a day of cycling on the dikes



Dutch school girl on a Shetland pony at the park



Visiting our colleagues on Holland's Teacher Appreciation Day